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London
OF THE

GENERAL DISPENSARY,

FOR

INOCULATING

AND

Administering Advice and Medicines

G R A T I S

TO ALL THE

INFANT POOR,

A T

THEIR OWN HABITATIONS,

AND AT

THE DISPENSARY,

K WARDOUR-STREET SOHO,

Three Doors from OXFORD-STREET.

LONDON:

PRINTED MDCCXCIV.

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OF THE

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INVESTIGATION

AND

ADMINISTRATION OF THE

WELFARE

OF THE

INFANT POOR

AND

THEIR ORPHANAGES

AND

THEIR

WARRANTS

AND

OF THE

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INFANT POOR.

AMONG the various Charities which so properly exercise the benevolence of this Nation, no one surely has a better claim to attention and patronage than that which extends its influence to the INFANT POOR. These, indeed, are Objects which convey to our Minds a double Idea of HELPLESSNESS, and by which we are doubly called upon to offer every Relief in our Power.

PERSONS of Opulence who are enabled to procure the best Advice for their Children, when afflicted with Disease, and to have them attended with unremitted care, often find all their Precautions ineffectual to preserve them. Parental Affection is common to all Ranks of Mankind. What Resource then has the Poor *Labourer* or *Mechanic* in so trying a Situation? The Physician's Fee is entirely beyond his Reach; and even the few Medicines that may be necessary to save his Child from the ravages of an increasing Distemper, may prove too costly for him to purchase, without materially adding to his own Wants, and those of the
rest

rest of his Family. Thus the poor Child is left to its Fate, and, if Nature should not prove strong enough to avert it, must inevitably fall a Victim to the neglect occasioned by the total inability of its Parents to procure Relief.

THE helpless State of the INFANT POOR, and the great need they stand in of our Assistance, are certainly sufficient motives to excite our Compassion; but these are not the only Ones we have to urge in behalf of these distressed Objects. Motives of Policy plead as strongly for them as those of Humanity. It is a well known Political Maxim, that the Strength of a Nation depends upon its Population: every Plan, therefore, which tends not merely to preserve that Population, but also to preserve it in its full Vigour, deserves the Encouragement of every Individual, zealous for the Prosperity of his Country; and even merits the Attention of the Legislature itself. The Benefits of such a Plan may be extended to numberless Generations: if, for instance, by such an Institution, the Life of one Individual can be preserved to the Community, it is impossible to calculate how far such an Advantage may extend. An Institution, therefore, of this Kind, in a Political View, becomes particularly necessary in LONDON: there the nature of the Air, and the mode

mode of Living, combined with the Profligacy of Manners inseparable from a large Metropolis, are Circumstances which not only occasion Children to be neglected, but also to make them more liable to Disease than Children in the country are, and their Diseases are likewise more obstinate and more frequently destructive.

The SMALL POX is one of those fatal Distempers, against the unmerciful Ravages of which, the blessing of INOCULATION has been providentially introduced to preserve the Lives of thousands. Either from Popular Prejudice, or from the fear of Expence, this salutary Operation is not so prevalent as it ought to be among the lower and more indigent Class of the Community. One of the objects of this Institution is, to remedy this Evil. When the Children of the Poor can be *inoculated* without *Expence*, and when they can be supplied *gratis* with all the Medicines and Advice necessary to counteract the ill Effects of this mortal Distemper; the Practice of INOCULATION, and the acknowledged Benefits resulting from it, will be universally diffused among the lower Ranks of the People.

ANOTHER Circumstance which renders such a Charity particularly useful is, that when Children are ill, it is but too common an Opinion, however absurd,

absurd, especially among the lower Class, that a Physician cannot be of any Service to them, from their not being able to describe their Complaint. Thus every old Woman thinks herself as competent to prescribe as a Physician. Hence arises the pernicious Practice of stuffing Children with *Saffron* and other Cordials, and even among the poorest People of all, with GIN itself, upon Presumption of their having what they call the *Gripes*. It is impossible to say how much the Bills of Mortality are increased by these pernicious Drugs. A Charity respectably supported, and which holds out the Advice of the most approved Physicians and regular Attendance of experienced Surgeons to Children, will certainly in Process of Time, overcome these Prejudices and fatal Practices, and be the Means of preserving many valuable and useful Lives to the State.

LET us be allowed once more to present the Objects of this Charity to every feeling Heart, The INFANT and the POOR! JESUS CHRIST said, *Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of them is the Kingdom of Heaven.* If as Children then they ought, in imitation of our Saviour's Example, to engage our Attention, how much more powerfully are we solicited to attend to their Relief, from the additional Circumstance of
their

their being *Poor*. Shall the noted Benevolence of this Nation, which has so amply provided for the Poor and Sick in every other Situation, be withholden only from the helpless State of INFANCY trembling under the Pangs of Disease? Surely not. Let us rather hope, that this necessary Establishment will speedily advance, as many others have done under similar Circumstances, to general Patronage and Estimation.

REGU-

REGULATIONS.

I. The Dispensary is open in *Wardour-Street, Soho*, three Doors from *Oxford Street*; where Attendance is given by one of the Surgeons from Ten to Two o'Clock every Day (*Sunday excepted*) to admit Patients; but if any are prevented from attending through illness or infectious Disorders, they will be visited at Home, on sending their Letters of Recommendation to the Dispensary. The Physician attends three Days in the Week (*gratis*) to prescribe for the Patients.

II. A Benefaction of Twenty Guineas, or upwards, or an annual Subscription of Three Guineas, constitutes a Director.

III. A Benefaction of Ten Guineas, or an annual Subscription of One Guinea, constitutes a Governor.

IV. Directors have the privilege of having Two Patients on the Books at a Time, and Governors One.

V. The President, Vice-Presidents, Directors, and Governors, constitute a standing Committee, who meet on the first *Monday* of every Month, for conducting the Affairs of this Charity. Three to form a Quorum. All Committees to be open, and every Contributor at Liberty to attend them.

VI. In order to render the Benefits to be derived from this Institution as extensive as possible
it

it is resolved, "*That all INFANT POOR, whose Disease require immediate Relief, shall be admitted to the full Benefit of this Charity, on Application being made at the Dispensary, without any form of Recommendation.*"

VII. That the Secretary do attend all Meetings of the Committee and General Meetings, and take the Minutes, keep exact Accounts of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Charity, and a Register of all Patients, with the Times of their Admission, &c. and that the Books be always open for the Inspection of Subscribers who may be inclined to look into them.

VIII. The Patients are to appear clean and decent, and Care taken strictly to observe such Directions as shall be given them, otherwise they will be discharged.

IX. Every Patient, when well, is required to carry a Letter of Thanks (which will be given at the Dispensary) to the Subscriber by whom recommended, that Enquiry may be made into the Treatment they received; on the Neglect of which, such Patient shall not receive any future Benefit from this Charity.

X. If any Cause of Complaint should arise, the Subscribers are requested to communicate the same to the Secretary, for the Information of the Committee, who will immediately enquire into and correct the same.

Number of CHILDREN admitted to this Charity from the 1st of May, 1785, to the 1st of May, 1793, being Eight Years, amounts to 2195.

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